

Hello,

My name is Sarah Tyszka of East Hartford and I support House bill 6517.

My son is a 7th grade student who went through absolute hell in the public school system. Although it was always apparent that he just couldn't sound out words, not one teacher was educated enough to recognize his dyslexia. That includes regular and special ed teachers.

My son was tested over and over looking for his learning disability and the school neuropsych testing never turned up his severe dyslexia. I was forced to seek outside testing that cost me upwards of \$5,000! \$5000! Out of my pocket to tell the school what he really had was dyslexia, dysgraphia, AND dyscalculia.

But, even with this knowledge from an outside neuropsych, the school lacked trained professionals to address his diagnosis. It was clear that they were not concerned and they even told me that they have so many children in middle school reading at a first grade level that he fit right into his classes. I found that absurd.

Not only did he not fit in anywhere with such a devastatingly severe diagnosis; he was forced into mainstream classes with no tools but his own ears to help him get by. This is a child who is functionally illiterate being forced to sit through classes with kids functioning way higher than him. They would rather let him sit there or sleep through class than teach him how to read.

They gave my son As! They gave him A's for doing NOTHING! He was placed on the honor roll. A kid who can't read, write, or do simple math, on the honor roll. Unbelievable right?

Teachers need better training and intense remediation needs to occur with structured literacy programs in elementary school. Not middle school, not high school. Dyslexia can be screened for in preK and Kindergarten. There's no reason outside of the cost for the system failing our kids.

We spend more on full prison systems with 70% illiterate inmates. Let's stop failing our youth here in CT. We need to find dyslexia earlier and we need to have trained professionals in our schools to get these students back on track. We need schools following the legislation that already stands because believe me they are NOT!

We need to get rid of these vague plans on IEPs like "multi sensory approach" because it's bullshit. Give our kids Orton Gillingham, Linda Ward Beech, Wilson, Barton etc. These work, while pretend "multisensory" does not.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Tyszka

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone